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The Ohio Independent Baptist

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1-1979

January 1979 (Vol. 51, No. 4)

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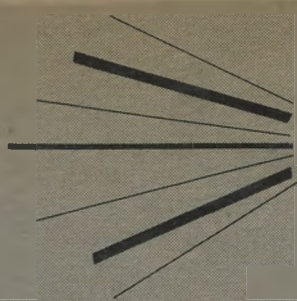
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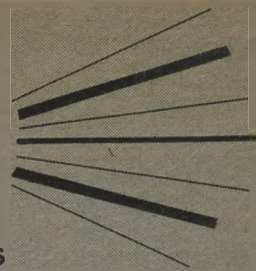




THE OHIO

# INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

Published by The Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches



Vol. 51 No. 4

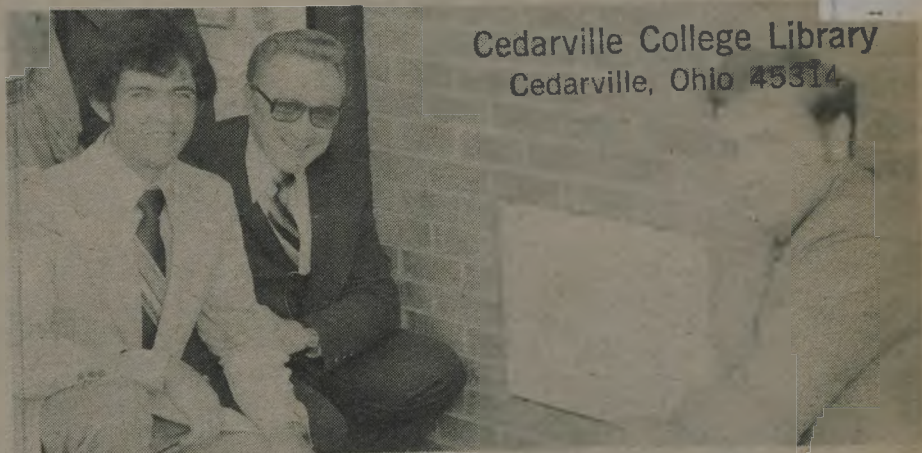
Jan

## Shawnee Hills Church Dedicated "Unto The Lord"



The lovely new auditorium!

Shawnee Hills Baptist Church, Jamestown, Ohio observed a dedication service Sunday, November 19th at 2:30 P.M. Rev. Paul Jackson, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Cedarville, was the dedicatory speaker addressing the 233 friends and members present. Thomas C. Fillinger, pastor of the church, welcomed several honored guests. Recognition was given to: Associated Engineering for the architectural design; CoMaCo (Construction Management Company), general contractor; Mr. Gary Countryman, job superintendent; and Church Buildings Committee of Fellowship of Baptists for Home Missions who financed the project. Much appreciation was expressed to members of the building committee for their hard work as well. They were: Mr. Don Harner, Mr. Bill Riter, Mr. Carroll Coy, Mr. Robert Taylor, and Mr. Lynn Brock. The service ended with the setting of the cornerstone by Mr. Gary Countryman.



(l. to r.) Mr. Gary Countryman (Job Superintendent), Pastor Tom Fillinger and Mr. Don Harner, Bldg. Committee Chairman.

The church first met as a Bible study in February, 1974, the result of a canvass by the Cedarville College Swordbearers. Regular Sunday services began in July with 27 people. By the fall of that year, the small group had moved from a home to a junior high school and purchased ten acres of property in the Shawnee Hills area. On January 22, 1975, a call was extended to Pastor Tom Fillinger. A year later services moved to another Jamestown facility - this time, an old church building. By November, 1977, the church observed a groundbreaking service. Construction began early this spring. The 6200 square-foot building includes a sanctuary seating 250, offices, and Christian education facilities. First services were held there October 1, 1978 with 201 attending. The new building is gratefully dedicated to the service and praise of Jesus Christ for Whom we "press on."

## Thirty-Eight Years Of Faithful Service



Rev. and Mrs. Ben C. Jennings

Rev. Ben C. Jennings of the Calvary Baptist Church, Lancaster, Ohio read his letter of resignation following the Sunday morning service on November 26th.

Brother Jennings served the Calvary Baptist Church in Lancaster for a period of five years. They have been wonderful years in which the Lord has truly blessed!

Our brother and his faithful wife, Beulah, have served in five different pastorates. These were in the states of West Virginia and Ohio. In all of his churches, he saw God's hand of blessing. As a result, in each church, he was involved in either a building or a remodeling program. His last three pastorates were in Beckley, W. Va. - Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio - and Lancaster, Ohio. All are a part of our OARBC fellowship.

The new building in Lancaster is a quarter-million dollar project. It is a beautiful structure. During his five years at the Lancaster church, 93 converts were baptized. The growth has been solid and the church today is stronger than it has ever been. The income of the church more than tripled in the past five years. God has been good!

Whereas our brother has resigned as pastor and is, in a matter of speaking, "retiring" yet, he is looking to the Lord to give him many open doors to declare His Word. Our pastors would be wise to take advantage of the opportunity of having this man of God in their churches. Here is one who is a student of the Word, an able preacher, a wise counselor and a faithful servant. He would be a great blessing to you and your people. This is one who speaks out of experience!

Rev. and Mrs. Jennings have five children. These include two daughters - Josephine Williams and Sue Pearson, both of whom, live in Detroit. Also, they have three sons - Dr. Don who is International Director of Enrichment and Evangelism with the A.B.W.E. - James who is Professor of Archaeology at Wheaton College and William Bryan who has just informed his parents he is resigning as a foreman in Steel Construction to accept God's call to preach the gospel. Brother Ben writes - "As I am fading out - Bill is phasing in!" Bill is a graduate of Cedarville College. He too, like his dad, is an able preacher.

Brother Ben, in writing to your editor, added these words. . . "My wife and I have no anxiety about the future. He who has led these 70 years - 38 of which have been invested in preaching the Good News of God's Grace - will lead all the way HOME!" As editor of the O.I.B., let us once again suggest you have Ben Jennings in your church. You will be glad if you do!

## Another Church Is "Debt Free!"



On Saturday, November 11, friends and members of the Calvary Baptist Church, 58 West Harbine Avenue, Xenia, Ohio gathered for their Annual Harvest Dinner. Before the showing of the film - "Pilgrim's Progress", Pastor Charles Lemaster and Mildred Walthall shared the privilege of burning the mortgage which leaves the church now "debt free!"

## '79 GARBC Conference To Be Held In Dayton

The OARBC has invited the national GARBC to hold their Annual Conference in Ohio in June 1979. The site chosen is the lovely new Convention Center in Dayton. For many of our pastors and church members this yearly conference is a much-looked-forward-to experience and a week of heaven on earth. For many years we from Ohio have been royally treated by our brethren in other parts of the country. Now it is our turn to play the role of good hosts for the 5,000 guests expected at this meeting. This is a project of the entire state fellowship and we work together to meet the expense. Estimated expense to the local committee will be about \$7,000. This will include mailings to the entire GARBC constituency (postage and stationery), printing of daily news sheet, children and youth program expense

plus innumerable other detail items and expenses.

## Help! Help! Help!

**BRETHREN-WOULD YOU HELP US?**  
If our larger churches would contribute \$100. each and the smaller churches, \$50. or even \$25.00, we would very easily reach this goal. Some have given already, for which we are grateful, but we need much more.

Please make your check out to GARBC Local Committee and mail

% Pastor Larry Fetzer, Chairman  
5650 Far Hills Ave.  
Dayton, Ohio 45429

Thank you for your help!



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### STAFF

Editor A. Donald Moffat  
Box 160  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
Ph. (513) 376-1196  
Circulation Manager Stuart L. Chaffee  
Box 160  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
Ph. (513) 766-5268  
Women's Editor Mrs. David Elmore  
715 Poplar Street  
Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
Ph. (614) 622-1093

### COUNCIL OF TWELVE

Chairman Robert N. Barrett  
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## By far The Most Important Bridge!



The Rev. J. Emerson Russell, artist-preacher, and former art director at Cedarville College, is now available for Bible Conferences. He may be addressed at 4 Tecumseh Drive, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601.



## On Christ, the Solid Rock, I Stand

*A Cabinet Maker Takes Up Writing*

"On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." That line ran over and over in the mind of a 34-year-old London cabinet maker as he walked toward his woodworking shop.

Edward Mote was happy. He had learned his trade; had worked at it for wages and now he ran a woodworking business of his own. Always busy, Mote spent his spare hours writing articles for London periodicals. And, now and then, when a key line would hit him, he tried his hand at writing verse. But most of all Edward Mote was happy because his once confused mind was settled on his belief in God. He had been brought up in a home where the Bible was not permitted and his playground had been the streets of London. But after he became a man he attended Tottenham Court Road Chapel where sermons of the renowned John Hyatt set his mind at ease.

Edward Mote's cabinet shop ran itself that day in 1834. He had a theme for a poem and he wanted to get it on paper. Closeted in his little office he wrote the caption "Gracious Experience of a Christian" and, as he put it, "In the day I had four verses complete and wrote them off." The Sunday following Mote went to the home of a minister friend whose wife was near death. Groping for words, the cabinet maker thought of his verses. He sang them for the dying woman and, at the conclusion of each verse, added the line "On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." It was only then that Mote realized he had written a hymn. He had a thousand copies

printed for friends; a hymnal picked it up and "The Solid Rock" has been sung ever since.

Mote gave up his cabinet business, entered the Baptist ministry and at 55 built a church at his own expense. When his congregation offered to deed the property to him he said, "I only want the pulpit." At 77, in 1874, he looked up at friends at his bedside and said, "The truths I have preached will do to die upon." And so passed a man who had been reared in a Godless home, learned an honorable trade and gave it up for the ministry but whose memory will live for generations because he took time off from his work one day to write

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness seems to hide his face  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the vale.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

## Further Changes In Our Ohio Directory

— The pastor of the Maranatha Baptist Church in Casteen, Ohio is Tim Rader. We had spelled his last name incorrectly.

— The phone number of the Grace Baptist Church, Cedarville, Ohio should read - (513) 766-2391.

— Rev. Ben C. Jennings has resigned as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Lancaster, Ohio.

— The phone number of the Faith Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, Ohio should read - (614) 397-6153.

## Faith Baptist Bible College News

### STUDENT NEWS

Eight students placed as finalists in the Scripture Reading Contest held on November 15 and 16 during the chapel hour.

Women placing were: Lynn Averill, Deocrah, IA; Debbie Riley, Boone, IA; Linda Thompson, Louisville, CO; Yvonne Winchester, Hammond, IN.

Men placing were: Steve Johnson, Milwaukee, WI; Bruce Michalowski, Naper, IL; Scott Stockton and Jim Stultz of Ankeny.

Winners in the Contest were Lynn Averill and Scott Stockton. Linda Thompson and Steve Johnson placed second.

### BIBLE CONFERENCE

"Laborers Together With God" (1 Cor. 3:9) is the theme for the 34th Annual Bible Conference at FBBC from February 19-23, 1979. Special guest speakers are: Dr. Jack Jacob, pastor of the Haddon Heights Baptist Church, Haddon Heights, NJ; Dr. John Balyo, professor, of English Bible and Practical Theology at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary; and Dr. Vaughn Sprunger, pastor of the Community Baptist Church of South Bend, IN.

— The correct street address for the Maranatha Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio is - 1704 Sunset Avenue.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Is the information shown concerning YOUR church? If not - please notify us and we will make the correction. We would like a perfect listing. To have this, we would need YOUR help! Send all corrections to: Don Moffat/Editor, Box 160, Xenia, Ohio 45385. Thank You!

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Favorite returning speakers are: Dr. Paul Tassell, pastor of the Grandview Park Baptist Church in Des Moines; and Dr. David Nettleton, FBBC president. Faculty members on the program are: Dr. Manfred Kober and Mr. David Warren. Mr. Richard Fleming is the Conference song leader.

Rev. Tim Crown, pastor of the Altoona Regular Baptist Church, is the guest alumni speaker. ALUMNI should make plans to be on campus for Alumni Day, February 23.

### FALL SPORTS

Faith's girls volleyball team remained undefeated this season and won the Mid-western Christian College Conference title.

Injuries and inexperience were as much of the battle as the opponents for the Eagle soccer players. Although their efforts produced no wins, they grew together spiritually as well as in skill and knowledge. Twenty of the twenty-four players are eligible for next year's team.

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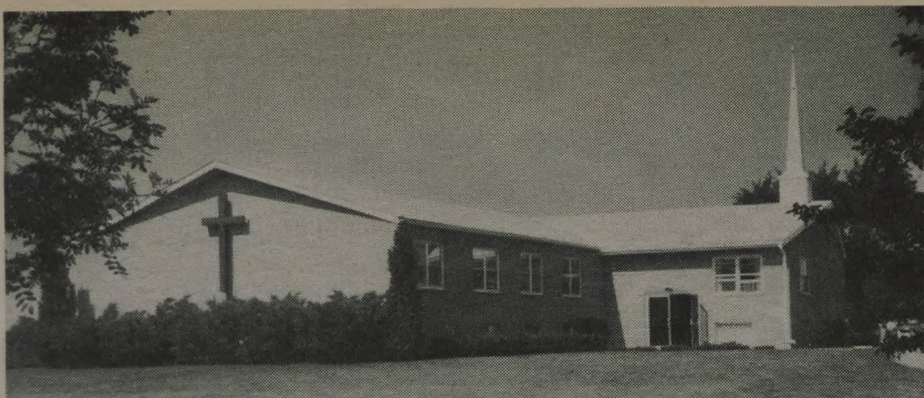
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Immanuel - Columbus



## Wonderful Words — "Paid In Full"



Grace Baptist Church - Lima, Ohio

On Sunday Evening, September 17, 1978, the Grace Baptist Church of Lima, Ohio held its Mortgage Burning Ceremony to recognize that the Church Mortgage had been paid in full, bringing to a close a special program of 15 years of dedication and faithful stewardship by the Grace members and friends.

The Mortgage Burning Service was a very impressive one to all in attendance. Mr. Stanley Brookhart and Mrs. Margaret Walls gave their testimonies and reflections on the happenings when this group decided to build a new church in 1963. Mr. Tom Jacoby had slides that were shown of the different stages of development as the church building progressed into what is now a very attractive church. Mrs. William Sampson presented the financial picture at that time. In 1963, a \$47,000 mortgage was taken out as compared to today when a \$225,000 mortgage is needed for approximately the same size of building.

Members of Grace, both in the initial planning of the present building and people who have become a part of Grace since the completion of the present building, formed a group at the front of the Sanctuary and offered prayers of thanksgiving and praise as the Mortgage was burned. Pastor William R. Pack was in charge of this impressive and meaningful Service.

## Now Pastoring New London Work



Dr. John W. Watts

The first Baptist Church of New London, Ohio has as their new pastor Dr. John W. Watts.

Pastor Watts and his wife, Jeannie, are both natives of Knoxville, Tennessee. They have two lovely daughters: Melissa - age 9 and Amy - age 3.

Our brother has been serving the Lord for the past eleven years. He worked in music and youth ministries in churches

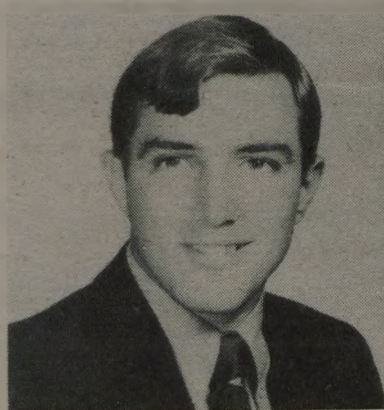
in Tennessee and New Mexico. For the past seven years he has been the Senior Pastor at the West Park Baptist Church in Knoxville. His ministry has also included personal counseling, Bible conferences and missionary ministries. He has traveled to more than eleven countries preaching the Word.

Pastor Watts received Christ as his own personal Saviour at the age of eleven. He was called to the ministry in 1964 and studied at the Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Illinois. He was ordained in 1968 when he began his full-time ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He further studied at the Midwest Conservative Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He earned his Bachelor of Theology, his Master of Theology and his Doctor of Theology degrees.

Mrs. Watts also studied at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. She is an accomplished musician. She plays piano and organ and teaches piano as well.

We are happy to have our brother and his family with us in our Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches. We look to the Lord to bless his ministry as he labors for Christ there in the New London area.

## Now Serving Wisconsin Church



Rev. Timothy Northey

Following an Ordination Council at Cedarville, Ohio on September 12, 1978, an Ordination Service was held at Memorial Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio for Mr. Timothy Northey who served the Lord as Youth Pastor there for six years.

Those taking part in the service were: Mr. Henry Northey, Tim's father, reading the Scripture, Rev. Kenneth Smelser delivered the Ordination Sermon, Rev. John Gayer gave the Charge to the Candidate, Mrs. Gayer offered Special Music, and our own Rev. Carl J. Schultz gave the Charge to the Church - The First Baptist of Navarino, Wisconsin.

Rev. Timothy Northey and his wife Mareanne, are now serving the Lord as full time Pastor at the Navarino Church. They reside at: Route No. 1, Sciocton, Wisconsin 54170.

### "JOB OPENINGS:"

Auto mechanic, plumber, general maintenance. Minimum two years experience in trade field; supervisory experience desired. Deadline for submitting credentials: March 1, 1979

Send resume including references to:

Director of Personnel, Cedarville College, Cedarville, OH 45314

## Oxford Church Now Fully Self-Supporting

It was with great rejoicing that the Faith Baptist Church of Oxford, Ohio (Rev. John F. Morrow, Pastor) officially voted to declare itself to be self-supporting on November 15, 1978. The decision by the congregation was unanimous. All regular supporters of the church have been notified of this decision and have been asked to consider the option of continuing to give designated offerings to the building fund if they so desire.

It has taken three years to arrive at this point of financial capability. Although at times the church came close to the goal in the past, they were frustrated in reaching it due primarily to the number of members who have moved into the Oxford area, became part of the church, and then moved away again. This past summer had been no exception to this as some thirteen regular members and friends moved away. The self-supporting goal has still been achieved, however, through careful control of expenditures, a growing commitment of the congregation to the principle of tithing, and the faithful witnessing of our members and friends which has brought many new people into the church.

In coming to this historical moment of being able to declare itself self-supporting, it is with a deep sense of gratitude to those who have helped to make Faith

Baptist Church a reality. The recent third anniversary celebration gave opportunity to remember the college student from Immanuel Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio whose worship experience in Oxford prompted the investigation of the need for a new church. There was also reflection upon the dedicated hard work of Earl Umbaugh, the now retired O.A.R.B.C. State Missionary, in establishing a beginning nucleus and helping them locate a pastor. The congregation reminded itself of the initial step of faith it took to call a full-time pastor and begin a new work while counting upon God to provide the needed finances and people. The quick and generous response of so many churches and individuals at that time and on through the past three years will not be forgotten. The remembrance of those who have earnestly and loyally prayed and given counsel and encouragement through these beginning years was also particularly gratifying. The church is thankful to our Lord for His work in their hearts and in the hearts of those who are "helpers of our joy." (II Cor. 1:24).

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## Calls New Associate Pastor



Dennis and Carol George

Mr. Dennis George has recently begun his ministry as Associate Pastor at Memorial Baptist Church in Columbus.

He was invited to candidate by Rev. Carl J. Schultz and the Deacons in late August.

Dennis, his wife Carol, and their 7 month old son Benjamin, had been serving at Allegany Baptist Church in Allegany, New York for two years.

They accepted a call from Memorial and began their service here on October 1, 1978.

Dennis and Carol were both born in Columbus and are both graduates of Cedarville College. Carol has begun recently as our Choir Director.

Our people are both enjoying and being challenged by this young couple.

## "READY, SET . . . GROW!"

BY DR. MARK JACKSON

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# Heart to Heart Among the Women

—Marcia Elmore — Women's Editor

## Grandma's Pantry

"Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go. . . ." I remember going to Grandma's house toward the fall of the year, and I couldn't understand why she made such fuss about stocking her shelves in the pantry. Do you remember Grandma's pantry? Do you remember fifty pound bags of flour and sugar, the canned meats, vegetables, and fruits? Let come what may, Grandma was ready for anything in those winter months to come.

Recently the sheriff of our community spoke to a women's group where I was present. He stressed the importance of being prepared for a disaster, such as the blizzard of 1978. He encouraged the women to get prepared like Grandma used to. "Stock your pantry so you will not be caught with a bare cupboard." He said his goal was to "turn the community around to meet the needs of the people."

As I listened and later pondered these things, the Lord brought to mind that there is coming a greater disaster to the people of this earth. As Christians, we need to be turned around to meet the spiritual needs of people in our various communities. We need to store up supplies in our spiritual pantry.

There is a difference between the two preparations. "Grandma's Pantry" is an excellent idea in meeting the physical needs of others by storing up supplies for distribution at the time of disaster. (I Timothy 6:18 is a charge to the rich specifically, but could be applied in this situation to all of us.)

"That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate." But our "Spiritual Pantry" should be made ready for dispensing immediately. We cannot wait until the disaster hits to dispense, it will be too late. God instructs us, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke 12:40 He is urging us to readiness in I Peter 3:15. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." A ready mind is mentioned to those in His service in I Peter 5:2.

Our "Spiritual Pantry" should be stocked and running over, made ready, so that we can. . . . make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17 Do ponder that thought, "Made ready to make ready". God is the only source of our "Spiritual Pantry". "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." II Cor. 3:5

### GRANDMA'S PANTRY

- Clean plastic gallon milk jugs, filled with water and capped tight.
- Foods that will keep (Canned and dried) and need no cooking preparation. Canned juices, powdered milk, cereals, etc.
- Battery powered radio - keep fresh batteries  
C B Radios
- Flashlights  
Lanterns  
Candles  
Matches (stored dry)
- Baby items -  
baby food, formula, disposable diapers, etc.
- Be prepared, take a first-aid course.

(List from Sheriff Hoop, of Coshocton, Ohio)

### SPIRITUAL PANTRY

- Water of the Spirit (Life) and Water of the Word. Isa. 44:3 - Eph. 5:26
- Milk and Meat of the Word I Pet. 2:2, Heb. 5:14.
- Up to date with the Lord, so we have fresh contact. God is the source of wisdom. I John 1:9, Prov. 13:14, and John 15.
- Be ready to share the light of the gospel. Acts 26:18
- Be spiritual parents, support the weak - Acts 20:35
- Be a tool of the Lord to heal the broken in heart, and bind up their wounds. Psalm 147:3 - Isa. 61:1

## Our Fiftieth Year

You will not want to miss this special event. Let's show our gratitude to the Lord for a fine organization by being in attendance at our Ohio Women's Missionary Union Spring Rally! The State Officer's Committee have met and are working overtime to plan a great day for us.

We will be remembering our 50TH ANNIVERSARY as an organized fellowship in our state, serving Christ with our hands, time, and money since 1929.

**Where:** Emmanuel Baptist Church  
4207 Laskey Road  
Toledo, Ohio  
**When:** April 17, 1979 - 10:00 A.M.  
**Theme:** "For ye serve the Lord Christ. . . . Colossians 3:24  
. . . to the praise of His glory"  
. . . Ephesians 1:12

**Speaker:** Mrs. Rene Street, a past president of our fellowship, veteran missionary under BMM to Zaire, (formerly Belgian Congo) now serving with her husband at Missionary Acres, Greenville, Missouri.

**Feature:** Missionary Symposium planned by Mrs. Marge Odor, pastor's wife from Newark, Ohio

There will be an election of officers. Each church is to elect three (3) voting messengers to vote at this meeting.

There will be a special time of introduction of the past presidents of the Women's Missionary Union.

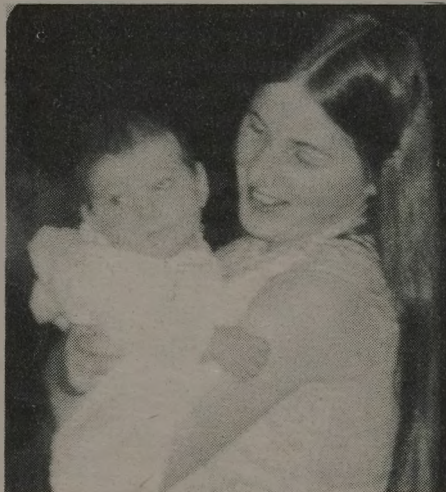
This is also the day we'll be completing our dime bank project for the Umbaughs and the Moffats. To assist our State Treasurer, Mrs. Lois Russell, (address on this page) let's get those dimes rolling in as soon as possible.

So. . . ladies, fill your cars, vans, and buses, and we'll see you April 17th in Toledo!

## Great Time At Mohican

Have you ever been so challenged and blessed that you couldn't wait to get started in areas of Christian growth, obedience to the Lord, increased reading of His Word and good Christian literature, among a host of other blessings?

In talking with the ladies who attended the Mohican Retreat, such were the positive results.



Youngest little lady at Mohican Retreat. (12 weeks old)

The Lord so used Mrs. Doris Jennings that 287 women could not have returned home in the same manner spiritually as they had come. Mrs. Jennings conveyed to us that the "Greatest Goal in Life Is The Knowledge of God", and further instructed "How To Attain It."

"We live in a day of instant everything. This seems to carry over into the realm of the spiritual. But to know God, it cannot. It takes a lifetime."

Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Jennings conducted a workshop on reading. To



Donna Albertson presenting "This Is Your Life" scrapbook to Sergie Umbaugh.

my knowledge, a group of women have never been better motivated to read God's Word and good Christian literature than at this session.

"Don't say I don't have time, but I have not disciplined myself to read and pray!"

We later went mountain climbing with Doris. Just as you have to have skill in climbing an actual rocky summit, you have to have skill in climbing the mountains that are before us in this life. She stressed the skill was in the use of God's Word and prayer. We began to climb the mountains of anxiety, fear, and worry; pride; resentment, rebellion, and anger; timidity; trials; tragedies; low self esteem; disappointments; dependency and depression; busyness; and finally loneliness, with the direction of the Scripture and practical helps.

As we listened to Florence Hagen, missionary to the Jews, on the subject of faith - we knew we had "rubbed shoulders with a true soldier of the cross."

Another definite highlight of the retreat was the presentation of This Is Your Life, Sergie Umbaugh. The presentation was made possible by the research and labors of Mrs. Donna Albertson of East Liverpool. Mrs. Umbaugh was presented with flowers, and a special tribute by Mrs. Barbara Williams of Reynoldsburg. A scrapbook was compiled and given to Sergie along with a charm bracelet, a valued book on Israel, and a monetary gift. Mrs. Kenneth Romig of Pataskala, Mrs. Don Moffat of Xenia, and Mrs. James Jeremiah (by tape) shared in the tribute also. Brother Umbaugh was present for the occasion, and gave us a glimpse of their future plans in Florida. You might ask him about the afternoon "Visitation" program in Florida.

All of this plus fun you wouldn't believe. A special thanks is due Mrs. Mary Leitch, Chairman, and Miss Norma Nulph, Registrar, along with their committee. Also thanks is due Miss Bernice Mick and Cedarville College Bookstore for the excellent opportunity to purchase Christian literature.

Plan now to attend the Spring Retreat at Mohican.

### OARBC WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION OFFICERS

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| President          | Aldene Graham<br>Box 288<br>Milan, Ohio - 44846<br>Phone: 1-419-499-2323                    |
| Vice-President     | Maria Smith<br>113 Pierce Street<br>Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio<br>44221<br>Phone: 1-216-923-8909  |
| Secretary          | Ethlyn Lucht<br>5635 Mayfield Road<br>Windsor, Ohio-45406<br>Phone: 1-216-272-5406          |
| Treasurer          | Lois Russell<br>Skyview Ranch<br>Route 6<br>Millersburg, OH.-44654<br>Phone: 1-216-674-7511 |
| OIB Women's Editor | Marcia Elmore<br>715 Poplar Street<br>Coshocton, Ohio - 43812<br>Phone: 1-614-622-1093      |

## KEEP THE DIMES ROLLING IN



to put wheels on  
the Swordbearers  
Witnessing  
Teams that  
go out from

**Cedarville College**

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF REGULAR BAPTIST W.M.F.





## Sky View Ranch

### Makes A Call For Help!

Dear Friends of Skyview Ranch:

On July 4, 1969 Skyview Baptist Ranch opened with its first week of summer camp. Much prayer, planning and work has come and gone in the past ten years. The results have been gratifying as souls have been saved, God's children have been built up in the faith, and the Ranch grounds have been improved.

The purchase price in 1969 was \$160,000.00 for the 175 acre farm. Buildings have been winterized, housing has been purchased and the indebtedness today stands at \$127,000.00. There have been outstanding efforts made with the Fair Share and Debt Free Camps programs and, most recently, Free Our Land. All of these helped and there were some very encouraging inroads made . . . BUT the debt still remains.

With inflation and high interest rates (and no relief in sight), the Trustees of Skyview Ranch are making a frontal assault to clear the Ranch of all indebtedness by September 30, 1979. The plan of attack is simply this: we are looking for 2,600 units of \$50.00 each. We are prayerfully seeking churches and/or individuals who will give one or more units. If

the 200-plus churches in our OARBC fellowship cooperate we would need only 13 units per church which would surpass our goal.

Who would be interested? Ranchers who have been blessed at Skyview. Parents who have seen their children turned around and now living for God's glory. Family members who have watched their loved ones mature. Staff members from former years. Business men who have a burden for youth work that is standing for good sound morals and decency. And you who are impressed by the need.

The pastors of our OARBC churches have information, commitment cards and return envelopes for your prayerful use. Our immediate goal is to have the indebtedness entirely committed by July 4, 1979 which is our tenth birthday. The commitment need not be fulfilled until September.

You and your church are a necessary part of the ongoing of this outreach of your local church. Our task is great, but our God is greater. I Corinthians 15:57-58.

Contact your pastor or Skyview Ranch, Rt. 6, Millersburg, Ohio 44654 for further information.

## Oregon Church Calls New Pastor

The Berean Baptist Church of Oregon, Ohio has called Rev. Richard Blair to be their new pastor. Our brother began his ministry there in November of this past year - 1978.

Pastor Blair and his wife, Allene, are the parents of three sons, all married and living in Southern California. Their oldest son, Mike, was born deaf and through him, the Blairs have both learned the Deaf Sign Language. Brother Blair is skilled in the Language and is able to preach to deaf people. . . . as well as to those who can hear.

Rev. Blair began his training for the ministry at the Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. He also studied at Tennessee Temple Schools, Chattanooga, Tennessee where he earned his ThG degree. He completed his training for a BA in Religious Education at the Pacific Coast Bible College, San Dimas, California.



Rev. Richard Blair

He served as pastor of the Valley Baptist Church, Rowland Heights, California from 1969 - 1973, and has taught in three colleges, one of which had an all-deaf student body.

Prior to coming to the Berean Baptist Church in Oregon, Ohio, he travelled far and wide in the field of evangelism. He did the work of an evangelist for a period of four years holding meetings in almost every state in these United States and in Canada.

Rev. and Mrs. Blair like the Oregon area very much and are looking forward to a happy and fruitful ministry. We are glad the Lord has led them to Ohio. We welcome them to the fellowship of our Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

## Future Events

### Hebron Women's Fellowship

Faith Baptist Church, Amherst

April 3, 1979

Speaker: Mrs. Myrna Alexander, F.B.H.M.

### Hebron Pastor's Wives and Presidents Luncheon

First Baptist Church, Spencer

March 6, 1979

### Maranatha Missionary Fellowship

Wheelersburg Baptist Church

March 24, 1979

### Canton Area Fellowship

Millersburg Baptist Church

April 24, 1979

## WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Thursday and Friday

March 29, 30 1979

Mohican State Park Lodge  
Perrysville, Ohio

Registration Taken After Jan. 1, 1979

Registrar: Mrs. Marilyn Loper  
40989 Butternut Ridge Rd.  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
(216) 458-5114

Estimated Cost --- \$23.00 - \$25.00



## Skyview Ranch

### FALL AND WINTER RETREATS '78 - '79

Jan. 26-27

COUPLES

Mar. 2-3

TEENS

Mar. 9-10

JUNIORS

Total cost — \$13.00 includes Friday night snack and 3 meals on Saturday and a horse ride, weather permitting. Registration on Friday from 7-9 P.M. Activities begin at 9 P.M.

Send \$5.00 per person for registration to:

SKYVIEW RANCH

Rt. 6, Box 115

Millersburg, Ohio 44654

Phone: 216-674-7511

## Baptist Bible College Of Clarks Summit News

### Winter Bible Conference

"Christ Glorified in His Church" is the theme of this year's Winter Bible Conference and Alumni Week to be held January 8-12, 1979. Keynote speakers include Cass Santos, Jr., Joseph Stowell, III, and Dr. Paul Tassell.

Cass Santos is pastor of the Bible Baptist Church, which he founded in 1960, in Shiremanstown, Pa. He was converted to Christ as a college sophomore at Columbia University. Since his graduation from Baptist Bible Seminary in 1952, he has pastored independent Baptist churches in Ohio, Maine and New York.

Pastor Stowell, of the Bible Baptist Church in Kokomo, Indiana, received degrees from Cedarville College and Dallas Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Council of Eighteen of the G.A.R.B.C., serves as a member of the Advisory Boards of A.B.W.E. and E.B.M., and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Bible College. In 1973 he was selected as an "Outstanding Young Man in America."

## New Vans Acquired For Christian Service



One of the two new 15-passenger vans.

The Board of Trustees at Baptist Bible College of Clarks Summit, Pa. have generously provided the school with two 1978 Dodge 15-passenger vans to be used in the school's Christian Service program. These vans were acquired through a special project undertaken by the board outside of regular budget monies.

Primary users of the vans will be ten different gospel teams, two "Missionary Kids" gospel teams, a puppet ministry team, rest home ministries, deaf ministry, street evangelism teams and weekend outreach teams.

The folk at Baptist Bible College appreciate greatly what the Board of Trustees have done. This was a large project that involved a sizeable amount of money. The vans will greatly enhance the ministry of making Christ known in the area surrounding the Clarks Summit community.

Dr. Tassell was National Youth Representative for the G.A.R.B.C. before his call to pastor Grandview Park Baptist Church of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1973. He is chairman of the Council of Ten of the Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches, chairman of the G.A.R.B.C. Council of Eighteen, a trustee of Cedarville College and Northwest Baptist Seminary, and Advisory Council member of A.B.W.E. and Faith Baptist Bible College.

These men will join several BBC and BBST faculty members in afternoon panel discussions, exploring these topics: "To What Extent Does the Pastor Rule the Church?" "Why Are Many of Our Churches Not Growing?", and "What Constitutes an Effective Church Youth Program?" Special women's sessions, to be held concurrently with the panel discussions, include: "Me? Have Company? (The Forgotten Art of Hospitality)", "How to Live Between a Rock and a Hard Place (Prices Going Up and Dollars Coming Down)", and "Females and Feelings (How to Live With Your Emotions)."

Alumni will have opportunity to participate in an Alumni vs. BBC varsity basketball game, an alumni banquet and several class reunion luncheons.

## EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH Toledo, Ohio

## 4th Annual INSTITUTE OF BALANCED CHURCH MINISTRIES

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR DEVELOPING A GROWING, EVANGELISTIC CHURCH WITH A BALANCED MINISTRY

MARCH 11-16, 1979



Ernest Pickering, ThD.



Bruce Snyder



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For more information write to:

Emmanuel Baptist Church  
4207 Laskey Road  
Toledo, Ohio 43623  
(419) 473-3280





## ACROSS THE STATE

### AMHERST, FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH—

We took a special offering at Christmas time to help pay for our lovely new van. On December 16 we presented a Holiday Family Musicales. Our Annual Sunday School Christmas program was held Sunday evening, December 17.

### ARCANUM, IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH—

A special offering was taken in November which was sent to Shepherds Home. We held a Thanksgiving Fellowship Banquet November 22.

### ATHENS, SOUTH CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH—

Brother Gary Storm was with us recently. He gave an excellent slide presentation of our Scioto Hills Reservation.

### BEDFORD, BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH—

Dr. Kenneth Muck is now serving as our Interim Pastor. We recently held a reception for him and his wife. We held a special Watch Night service on December 31st.

### BELLEFONTAINE, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—

On November 11, Mrs. Jean Ellsworth of Kent State University, presented a Piano Concert. It was at this time we dedicated our lovely new grand piano which has been placed in our auditorium. One of our members, Mrs. Peggy Bush, presented a sacred concert in Lewistown, Ohio. Recent speakers include—Dr. Robert Gromacki of Cedarville College, Dr. Robert Whitney of Grand Rapids, Michigan and Dr. Wendell Kempton, President of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. A party was held for "the Larry Holman family" (missionaries to the Philippines). They were presented with a check for \$2,000 to be used in their airplane ministry.

### BEREA BAPTIST CHURCH—

An offering was taken at our special Thanksgiving Day service. The money received was used for our "VAN" project. Dr. Paul Dixon, President of Cedarville College, spoke here December 2nd. This was a meeting of our Hebron youth. Our choir presented their Christmas cantata Sunday evening, December 17.

### BLANCHESTER, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—

We held our Christmas Banquet on December 5th. Guest speaker was Rev. Richard Marsh (Alaska). Rev. and Mrs. Marsh also ministered here one Sunday in December telling of their work in Alaska.

### BROOK PARK, MID-BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH—

Rev. James Godly, Sr. was with us for special meetings November 5-12. The SWORDBEARERS from Cedarville College helped canvass our neighborhood seeking new prospects. They also ministered at our church on November 19. We held our annual Christmas banquet on December 6. We recently began a Children's Church. The Lord is blessing the work here.

### BUCYRUS, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—

Missionary Verne Kirby (BMM) told us of the work of Baptist Mid-Missions in Alaska. "The Kirbys" were a blessing to our people. Evangelist Davidson was with us for a week of meetings in October.

### CANTON, PERRY BAPTIST CHURCH—

Rev. Darrell Bice of Regular Baptist Press spoke here November 19. Also, we were privileged to have the Magnificent Muppet Masters on the evening of the same day. Our choir presented a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 24.

### CASTEEN, MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH—

Plans are being made to develop a program of "lay evangelism" among our people. We are now running a weekly column of Bible questions and answers in our local newspaper. The Lord is blessing this work.

### COLUMBUS, CLINTONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH—

On October 22nd, we celebrated our first anniversary in our lovely new auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Bush showed pictures of their trip to Israel to our Golden-Agers group. Our choir presented a Christmas cantata entitled - "The King of Kings."

### COLUMBUS, HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH—

We had a good time of fun, food and fellowship at our Progressive Supper on Saturday, December 2nd. Brother Mike Coyle was with us on December 10. His ministry of music proved a great blessing to our people.

**COLUMBUS, IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH—** Hearts was challenged through the ministry of Missionary Robert Gough. Our brother serves under F.B.H.M. Dr. James T. Jeremiah's ministry proved a blessing. He was with us November 19-22. Our Teens for Christ held their Christmas banquet on December 16. "The Night The Angels Sang" - a cantata - was presented by our choir the evening of December 17.

### COLUMBUS, PINE HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH—

Recently we had a guest speaker who told us of the Gideon work in distributing Bibles. The Dennis Oatley Family ministered here the last Sunday evening in November. They are missionaries to Peru. Also, Brother Wm. Brock (Maranatha Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio) spoke at our Annual Thanksgiving dinner.

### CUYAHOGA FALLS, GRAHAM ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH—

Rev. Dick Pettit (EBM) was here for one of our mid-week prayer services in late November. Missionary Loretta Strock also ministered here. Our choir presented the Christmas Cantata - "Down From His Glory" on Sunday evening, December 17. We held a Leadership banquet December 28 and at our Watch Night Service we viewed the film - "The Deceiver."

### DAYTON, COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH—

We gathered food for the Baptist Children's Agency in St. Louis, Michigan. Our pastor, Rev. Carl R. Stephenson, has just completed his 12th year as pastor of the County Line Baptist Church. God has blessed his ministry through the years. The film - "Now That You Are Here" was shown at a meeting of our ladies. It was their annual Women's Missionary Buffet. Our Senior High department presented a Christmas play entitled - "The Shadow Of The Cross."

### DAYTON, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH—

"The Clint Kaufelds" were with us Sunday evening, November 19. They are missionaries under Baptist Mid-Missions working among black people in the Indianapolis area. Our ladies held their Christmas banquet December 7.

### DAYTON, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH—

Our Adult Choir presented the cantata - KING OF LOVE. This was Sunday evening, December 17. On December 24, we held an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing and Candlelight Service. We viewed the Moody Science Film - "To The Unknown God" at our New Years service.

### DUNDEE, LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH—

On December 17, we presented a Christmas program entitled - "Beyond The Manger." The ministry of Brother Roy Clark proved a great blessing to our people.

### ELYRIA, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—

Rev. Joel Kettenring spoke at our Missionary Fellowship on December 12. We held our Adult Christmas banquet December 21. Missionary Miss Gullette spoke at one of our mid-week prayer services.

### FAIRBORN, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

Rev. David Duncan and Rev. Clint Kaufeld were with us for our missionary conference. We had a Father/Son retreat recently which was greatly enjoyed. Our teens held a Progressive Dinner on December 15.

### FINDLAY, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—

It was a blessing to sit under the ministry of Dr. B. Myron Cedarholm of Watertown, Wisconsin. Our youth took part in SNOWBOUND '78. This was a time of fun in winter sports held in Gladwin, Michigan. Also it proved a spiritual blessing as they sat under the ministry of Brother Dave Barba. Our choirs presented a HOLIDAY MUSICALES Saturday and Sunday evenings - December 16 and 17.

### GALLIPOLIS, FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH—

We held our Christmas banquet this year on December 8. We were led in special meetings which we called our FALL ROUND-UP, by Evangelist and Mrs. Elmer Marquardt. The Lord blessed.

### KENT, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

Our Senior High young people held a Progressive Dinner November 18. On the evening of the 19th, we had our FESTIVAL OF THANKSGIVING service, at which "Thanksgiving Vespers" were presented. This was a special service of readings, choral and instrumental music, and congregational hymns. It was a service that proved a great blessing to all.

### KENTON, FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH—

We were led in special meetings by Evangelist Ed. Morrell. This was November 29 through December 3. Our brother's preaching was most challenging. Folk were moved to make decisions of vital importance.

### LANCASTER, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—

Our pastor, Rev. Ben. C. Jennings, has resigned. His ministry here has been one of great blessing. (See elsewhere in this issue of the O.I.B. for a more complete article concerning his "retirement.") Also, our Youth Pastor, Brother Kirby Lancaster, Jr., felt led of the Lord to tender his resignation. As a church, we stand in need.

Both of these men are dearly loved by our people. We covet the prayers of others during these days. We want the Lord's will as we seek to fill these vacancies! We presented a Christmas play entitled - "Why Christmas?" Our church choir presented the beautiful Christmas cantata - "Love Transcending."

### LONDON, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

In November, Mr. John Moore was with us to present the work of THE GIDEONS. The Kenneth Van Loon family, appointees to Alaska under Baptist Mid-Missions, were with us November 26.

### LORAIN, FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH—

Dr. Paul Dixon of Cedarville College spoke here Sunday, December 3rd. Our choir presented a Christmas cantata on December 17.

### MCDONALD, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—

The work of the Campus Bible Fellowship was presented recently by Brother Gary Holtz. He did this through the use of slides. Our Jr. and Sr. High young people presented a Christmas program, Sunday evening, December 17. We are looking forward to having Missionary Ron Weigel and his wife, Sue, with us on January 21. They are burdened for the work of church planting in Houston, Texas area.

### MEDINA, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—

Our youth held their "Christmas Breakaway" on December 28 and 29. They had a great time having special speakers, films, fun, activities and Bible study. Our choir presented a Christmas cantata on December 17. Things are moving right along concerning our relocating, preparing to build and the like. God is performing miracles!

### NORTH OLMSTED BAPTIST CHURCH—

Recently we had Brother John Reisinger minister here. He ministered Sunday through Sunday, November 12-19. His preaching proved a blessing.

### OVERLIN, CAMDEN BAPTIST CHURCH—

Recent speakers include - Missionary Mel Lacock (ABWE-Hong Kong), Rev. Daniel Kline and Brother Ken Starret (AWANA).

### ORANGE VILLAGE, BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH—

Steve Boalt's concert proved a rich blessing to all. He was here in late November. Our young people presented a special program entitled - "In The Catacombs" on Sunday evening just before Christmas. We viewed the film - "All The King's Horses" at our New Year's Eve service.

### PAINESVILLE, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—

We were led in a special PROPHECY CONFERENCE by Brother Gerald Smelser. The entire conference considered the theme - "The Middle East In Perspective."

### SPRINGFIELD, MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH—

We were led in special meetings by Evangelist Roy Fishburn. There were decisions made to receive Christ as Saviour and also to dedicate one's life to the Lord for full-time service. Our brother uses colored charts in illustrating his messages. We highly recommend him to the churches of our OARBC fellowship.

### SPRINGFIELD, SOUTHGATE BAPTIST CHURCH—

We were privileged to have our pastor's father - Rev. John E. Greening, presently pastoring the Community Baptist Church, Deerfield, Illinois, speak at one of our mid-week prayer services.

### STREETSBORO, FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH—

Rev. Lee F. Wise, missionary to Chile under A.B.W.E., ministered here November 26. Editor /Evangelist Don Moffat and his wife, Lois, was with us Sunday, December 31st. We appreciated the singing of the MEN OF PRAISE—a singing group from Akron, Ohio.

### STRONGSVILLE, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—

Our men held a MEN'S HUNTING RETREAT that proved a blessing. This was on December 1 and 2.

### STRYKER, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—

We viewed a series of films on the subject of "Lay Witnessing." These have proven a blessing to our people. We held our Second Annual Thanksgiving Supper on November 21.

### SUNBURY, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

Recent speakers include: Rev. Donald Parvin, Rev. Lee Turner, Rev. Harry Cole, Rev. Richard Durham, Brother John Lenegar, Rev. Melvin Welch, Rev. William Harris, and Rev. Tim Hille.

### TOLEDO, BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH—

We were led in a three-day revival by Evangelist Jim Dunne. This was November 15, 16 and 17. We recently viewed the film - "Voice Of The Martyrs." We held our Annual Christmas banquet on December 14, "Behold A Saviour Is Born Which Is Christ The Lord" was the theme of our Christmas program this year. We marked December 10 as our "Verne and Helen Kirby Day." These dear folk are missionaries in Alaska under Baptist Mid-Missions.

### TOLEDO, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH—

Hearts were blessed through the presentation of our Ninth Annual HOLIDAY MUSICALES. There were visitors from near and far. We feel it was the very best in music!

### TOLEDO, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

Our choir presented their Christmas cantata - "King of Love" on Sunday evening, December 17. We had a good time at our Adult Christmas banquet. "Teen Winter Dinner" was held for our College and High School young people. Guest speaker was Dave Carder from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo. We viewed the film - "He Leadeth Me" at our Watch Night Service.

### TROY, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

The Lord blessed in our special meetings. Guest speaker was Editor/Evangelist Don Moffat. His wife, Lois, was with him each evening and presented special piano solos, as well as, playing for the congregational singing. Their ministries were appreciated. The Lord blessed. (Editor's Note: It was a blessing to us to see how beautifully this father/son combination is working out. The pastor is Dr. Charles Pausley and his son, Chuck, serves as Youth Pastor.)

### WESTLAKE, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH—

On December 10, Rev. Bernard Flanagan of F.B.H.M. was our guest speaker. He presently is on deputation, seeking to raise his support to engage in missionary work. We held a special Candle Light service on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 31 was our "DOUBLE YOUR TITHE SUNDAY."

### WHEELERSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH—

We were blessed through the preaching of our Pastor's father - Evangelist Robert L. Sumner. He ministered here November 19-26. We had a good time as our Church Family gathered for a Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19.

### XENIA, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—

Dr. and Mrs. Gene Burrows (BMM-Assam, India) recently ministered to us from the Word and showed slides of their work among the lepers in that needy land. Also, Brother David Drozek showed slides and gave a report of his work in the country of Chad, Africa. We held our Harvest Dinner in November at which time we viewed the film - "Pilgrim's Progress."

"If I could speak with you personally . . ."



"I would share some of the burden of caring for over 50 boys and girls — not only seeing that their physical needs are met — but also praying for them and with them. I want to see them grow up for Christ. WILL YOU HELP ME?"

For more information, write to:

**Rev. Donald E. Worch,**

**Executive Director**

**Baptist Children's Home**

**and family ministries**

354 West St., Valparaiso, IN 46383



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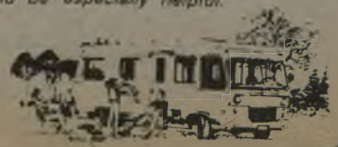
Write for further information to

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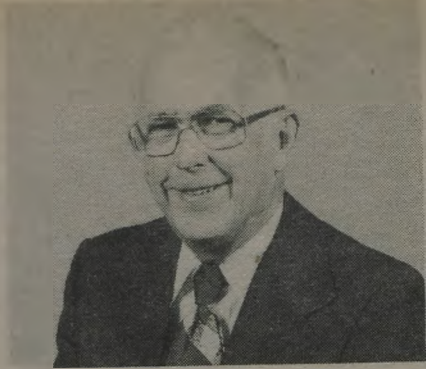
P.O. Box 455, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: (216) 365-7308





## Honored For Faithful Service



Dr. James T. Jeremiah

On Friday, November 17, Cedarville College celebrated its 25th anniversary as a Baptist-run institution, and also honored Dr. James T. Jeremiah for his 25 years of faithful service. A banquet was hosted by the college students in honor of both Dr. and Mrs. Jeremiah. Their children and grandchildren were present for this occasion.

At the banquet, David Jeremiah, son of the Chancellor, presented his father with a resolution of commendation from the Council of Eighteen for his faithful leadership. Vance Maloney, student representative, then announced that a scrapbook filled with memorabilia was being compiled by a student group. This scrapbook is to be presented to the Jeremiahs upon its completion. Mr. Maloney also presented the couple with a copy of the banquet invitation enclosed in a shadowbox.

In his speech later, Dr. Jeremiah stated, "We want to thank you for all your kindnesses, particularly the students."

He then paid tribute to his family, and spoke of his wife's love and dedication to him through the years. He also stated that he was blessed to have had all his children grow up to love the Lord.

The Chancellor commended the Board of Trustees for their unity through the years. A final note of praise was directed to the faculty and administration for their co-operation.

Over the past 25 years, the Lord has blessed the school as it has grown from 105 students and 20 graduates in 1954 to 1200 students with 224 graduates in 1978. During this time, the school has seen the construction of a Gym-Student Center (1963), the Library (1967), the Science Center (1973), and the James T. Jeremiah Chapel (1977), in addition to several new dormitories. There are now over 4,000 alumni serving the Lord throughout the United States and in 27 foreign countries.

Dr. Jeremiah, a native of New York State, was born in Corning in 1914. He moved to Johnson City at age twelve, and attended high school there. In 1936 he graduated from Baptist Bible Seminary, which was then located in Johnson City. He then went on to pastor churches in Panama, New York, Toledo, Ohio, and Dayton, Ohio. While a pastor, he served on the Council of Baptist Mid-Missions and the Council of Fourteen of the GARBC.

Dr. Jeremiah earned his B.A. degree from Central State University, graduating in 1960. In 1961 he received an honorary doctorate from that school, the first alumnus ever granted the honor.

## Cedarville College News

### MUSICAL PRESENTED

Meredith Wilson's *Music Man* was presented on November 30 - December 2. Village Players and Music Educator's National Conference (MENC) co-sponsored the musical.

The production was a success as it played to a full house for all four performances. Mrs. Rebecca Baker, Assistant Professor of Speech, directed the play, assisted by student Jan Zachary. Dr. Charles Ellington, Music Professor, supervised the music assisted by musical coordinator John Mohler.

Senior Psychology major Ron Bigelow starred as Harold Hill. LuAnn DeYoung, a senior Speech Education Major, played Marian, the Librarian, the female lead. The couple was supported by a 39 member cast, including six children of faculty members.

Village Players is scheduled to present William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, May 10 - 12.

### CHOIR PRESENTS PROGRAM

The Cedarville College Oratorio Choir and Orchestra presented a concert of music appropriate for the Christmas season on Sunday afternoon, December 10. The program took place on the Cedarville campus in the James T. Jeremiah Chapel. Featured in the presentation was *GLORIA* by Antonio Vivaldi and *THE MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS*, Suites I and II by Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett. Student soloists for *GLORIA* were Joan Surso, soprano, from Cleveland, Ohio, and Gwen Smith, mezzo-soprano, from Wapiniers Falls, New York. The choir and orchestra performed under the direction of Dr. Charles Ellington, Professor of Music.

### MISSIONARY CONFERENCE



Dr. Wendell Kempton

He served as president of Cedarville College from November 1, 1954, to September 15, 1978, when he became Chancellor. His present responsibilities keep him on the road preaching most of the time. Busier now than before, Dr. Jeremiah is quick to point out that he has changed jobs - not retired!

The annual Missionary Conference will be held here at Cedarville College January 14-19. The conference this year features the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. The conference theme is - "Other sheep I have. . . . them also must I bring."

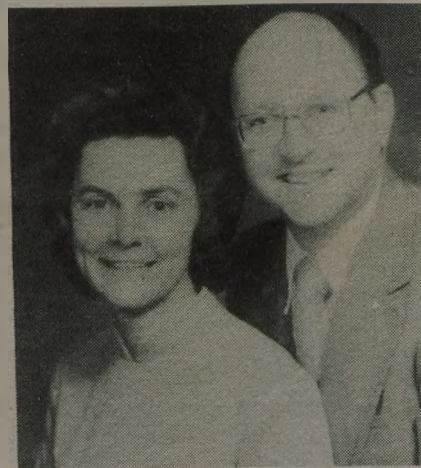


Rev. Larry Armstrong

Along with the emphasis on ABWE, other GARBC mission agencies have been invited to set up booths and send missionary representatives. GARBC social agencies will also be represented.

Featured speakers will be Dr. Wendell Kempton, President of ABWE, Rev. Larry D. Smith, Missionary to Chile and Rev. Larry Armstrong, Missionary to Australia.

Presenting a musical ministry at the conference will be Jemon and Zonnie Alparaque - "Pearls from the Orient" -



Rev. and Mrs. Larry Smith

a husband and wife team from the Philippines. "The Alparaques" are products of missionary endeavor in the Islands. Their ministry is one of great blessing.

The conference has been planned entirely through the efforts of the college's Missions group - Fellowship of World Missions. Officers of the Fellowship of World Missions are: Doug Richardson, President; Chris Walker, Vice President; Kris Anderson, Secretary; Leona Yater, Treasurer; and Lisa McClure, prayer letter co-ordinator. Mr. Richard Durham, Associate Professor of Bible, is the group's advisor.



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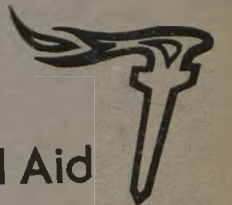
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## The One Who Really Counts

by V. Ben Kendrick

Ann laid down the copy of "Conquest" which she received in Sunday School that morning. "If I didn't know better," she said, "I would think that the author was writing about me."

It had only been two weeks since Ann returned home after having been away for nearly a month. She found it difficult to imagine all that she had gone through in recent weeks. Only a miracle from God redirected her steps and brought her back to her family.

As Ann looked at the illustration on the front page of "Conquest" she saw herself as the girl in the story. The drawing became blurred as tears filled her eyes.

"Dear Lord," she prayed, "Thank You for bringing me back to Yourself. Thank You for watching over me and leading me back home."

"It's time to eat, Ann," called her mother, standing at the foot of the stairs. "The food is on the table, Honey."

"I'll be right down, Mom," answered Ann. "Oh, it's so good to be back home," she thought aloud as she washed her hands in the bathroom. "Lord," she prayed, "please help me to walk close to You. I don't want to every stray away again."

She glanced at herself in the mirror, happy that she was back home with her parents and even more important, that she was back in fellowship with her Lord.

That afternoon, after the dishes were put away, Ann sat reading when the telephone rang.

"I'll get it, Mom," she called as she hurried across the room, picking up the telephone receiver. "It's Mrs. Birch. She wants me to come over this afternoon for a little while. She says that Cynthia is home from college for the day and she'd like to talk with me."

Martha Herrman smiled and nodded her head.

"Tell Cynthia I'll be right over, Mrs. Birch."

"Cynthia's out of fellowship with the Lord, Ann," said her mother with a strain of grief in her voice. "You'll find she's not the same girl who went forward last year and dedicated her life to the Lord for missions."

"Oh, Mom, I know so well what she's going through. Who would have thought three weeks ago that Ann Herrman would be in any condition to help anyone?" Ann put her arms around her mother.

"Thank you, Mom, for your love and your prayers. You never gave up on me, did you?"

"I just kept trusting the Lord, Honey. His promises are as strong as His very existence. We're so thankful that He brought you back to Himself."

Ann kissed her mother and then left, calling over her shoulder that she would be home in time for church.

For some reason Ann felt scared as she rang the doorbell of the Birch home. It seemed only seconds until the door opened and there before her stood Cynthia, her friend since childhood days. They greeted each other with a hug and Ann stepped inside. To her surprise she and Cynthia were alone in the room.

"I'm so glad you could come over, Ann. I wanted to share with you some of the neat things that are happening at college. Mom's upstairs so we have privacy to talk."

Ann sat patiently listening to Cynthia relate one story after another with the main theme being boys and parties.

"Hey, wait a minute!" said Cynthia after a solid half hour of talking. "I've been doing all the talking. How about you telling me about yourself. One of the kids told me that you split for a month, but had to come home to refuel. Where did you go? Tell me about all those guys you met."

Ann felt that the opportunity had come for her to tell Cynthia of the change that had taken place in her life.

"Yes, I did leave home for about a month," began Ann. "I wanted freedom. I didn't want to be put into anyone's mold, especially the religious mold of my parents."

A slight smile appeared on Cynthia's face. "At first I even seemed to enjoy the independence of being alone. I got a job in a restaurant in St. Louis and was sure that I found that for which I was looking. No more church and definitely no more supervision by my parents. I don't want to go into detail, Cynthia, but I was out to have a good time, and to get it any way that I could. Drinking, wild parties and even drugs became a daily thing for me."

Cynthia sat quietly listening to Ann as she unfolded her story.

"I called my Mom and Dad only one time to tell them that I was alright, but other than that, there were no other communications from me to them. It was impossible for them to write or call me because I simply refused to give them my address or tell them where I was. During these past two weeks that I've been home, I have realized to some extent the terrible, indescribable agony which I caused my dear parents to go

through. I'm sure of one thing, Cynthia. It is far easier for us to go our own ways and forget our parents than it is for them to forget us, their children." Ann paused and added, "I find this true of our relationship with the Lord also."

Cynthia opened her mouth to say something, and then remained silent.

"It was the end of the fourth week since I had left home when the accident happened. I was out with Bob, who was a married man and who had two children. He told his wife he was going bowling with the men at the office, but instead he went out with me."

Ann paused and looked down at the floor. "You know, Cynthia, I have found that it is so easy to rationalize anything that we want to do, whether it be right or wrong. Bob told me that he had an argument with his wife that day and as far as I was concerned, he was a nice guy and needed some cheering up. We were driving along a country road, when all of a sudden, out from the side of the road ran a little boy. Bob slammed on his brakes, but it was too late. He hit the little boy and threw him down an embankment. The car left the road and when it did, somehow the door on my side opened and I was thrown out onto the grass. The car then rolled down the embankment, resting on its top about forty feet below. Bob crawled out of the car unhurt, but Oh, Cynthia, "cried Ann as she buried her face in her hands, "I'll never forget seeing that little five-year-old boy lying lifeless alongside the road. We were cleared of any charges, since we were not speeding and the little boy dashed out into the road."

Ann reached her arm out and placed it on Cynthia's shoulder.

"God really spoke to my heart at the scene of that accident. I cried to Him for forgiveness and told Him right there that I would live the rest of my life for Him."

"Look," said Cynthia. "It wasn't your fault. Why punish yourself?"

"I'm not punishing myself," responded Ann. "I simply came to the realization that there is more to life than just having a good time. Jesus Christ died not only to give us everlasting life, but He also purchased these bodies of ours that we may be of service to Him. Cynthia, I've come to the conclusion that in whatever I do, if Christ is not somehow involved, either directly or indirectly, then it really isn't worth doing. Life is too precious and too short to use it doing things which really don't count for eternity."

"I really haven't thought of it that way, Ann, but it's true that Christ is the One who really counts. What's happened to us?" cried Cynthia as she lifted her hands to her face. "The more you talked to me today, the more I realized that I've been like a blind person this past year. Do you remember that night, Ann, when we both went forward and gave our lives to the Lord for missions?"

"I remember, Cynthia," responded Ann with tears in her eyes. "How true it is that 'Only one life twill soon be passed and only what's done for Christ will last.'"

Within minutes the two girls knelt beside each other as Cynthia confessed her

sins to the Lord and renewed her promise of dedication to Him. Time slipped by rapidly as they prayed and talked together. Before they realized it, it was time for Ann to return home and get ready for church.

"Wow!" said Ann, looking at her watch. "I'd better get going. I told Mom that I'd be home in time to go to church with her and Dad."

Cynthia stood up and walked over to the stairway. Unknown to her, her mother had spent the afternoon on her knees praying for her daughter.

"Mom," called Cynthia. "We're going to be late for church if you don't hurry."

Ann's heart filled with joy for what God had done that afternoon.

"Thank you, Lord," she prayed, "for your love and patience to us." As she left the Birch home, her copy of "Conquest" was left lying on the dining room table.

## West Moriah

### Christmas Banquet

On December 12th, the pastors of the West Moriah Fellowship and their wives gathered at Stan's Restaurant in Columbus, Ohio for their Annual Christmas Banquet.

Guest speaker for this occasion was Pastor David Elmore of the Calvary Baptist Church in Coshocton. A quartet from the same church provided the special music.

A good meal of Turkey and/or Swiss Steak was greatly enjoyed! It was a time of good fellowship. Everyone had a great time!

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*Galatians 6:10*



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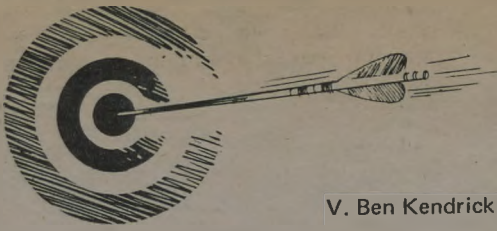
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V. Ben Kendrick

## ON TARGET WITH MISSIONS

Have you ever wondered what the Director of the Women's Department does in a large organization like **BAPTIST MID-MISSIONS**? I'm sure you'll be a bit surprised as this report is given concerning Mrs. Myrtle Thompson, better known as "Myrt" to thousands across the nation.

Myrt has been in her present position for only a little over a year and has already crossed the country from New York to California several times. But first, let me give you a bit of her background.

Myrt's husband, Lloyd, went to be with the Lord in 1974 after a very lengthy illness. They had served for two terms as missionaries in Brazil and later filled pastorates in Michigan and California.

Myrt was an active pastor's wife as she led choirs, taught Bible classes and worked with young people and children. She also taught school, both public and Christian.

Mrs. Thompson has been active in women's groups in both Michigan and California. In California, where Brother Thompson served his more recent pastorates, she was President of the statewide Pastor's Wives' Fellowship. She was also an officer in the California Women's Missionary Group.

Accepted by Baptist Mid-Missions in 1975 after offering herself for missionary service, Myrt worked among the Jewish people in the San Fernando Valley.

Myrt's oldest son, Mark, is married and will be graduated from Seminary in June. Her other two sons, Lynn and Daniel, have been graduated from the Los Angeles Baptist College.

In my interview with Myrt Thompson, she told me that within the past year she has spoken 124 times in 92 churches. This past spring, she had the privilege of speaking at 21 Mother-Daughter banquets. Myrt's desk is never without speaking invitations. Opportunities to minister at retreats, around state ladies' meetings and missionary conferences present Myrt with a problem—but it's a good problem: How to fit everything into her schedule!

Within the last year, Myrt had the joy of seeing three saved and thirty-nine dedicate their lives for full-time service. She is a very effective personal worker. Myrt plays an important role at the Baptist Mid-Missions' Regional Conferences where she conducts workshops for the women. She also arranges the ladies' meetings in the well known Triannual Conferences.

Yes, Myrt Thompson is busy doing a man-sized job. Baptist Mid-Missions is delighted to have her as part of its deputation staff.

**HIAWATHA BAPTIST MISSIONS** graduated twelve churches in twelve months! Faith Baptist Church, Merrill, Wisconsin, was started in 1967 under the direction of missionary, Ralph Imhoff. It declared itself self-supporting on October 15, 1978. Under the capable leadership of HBM Director, A. B. Cunningham, the mission has experienced unusual growth in its goals to evangelize and establish Baptist churches.

What about the camping ministry in missions? The **ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM** has a worldwide camping ministry it would like to tell you about. You ask the question: Camping in winter? No, in the lands beneath the equator the seasons are opposite to those in the U.S.A. December through January are the vacation months when young people journey to a remote spot in the Amazonas, Brazil, or a lakefront area in Northeast Brazil known as Bon Fim, or to a newly constructed Camp Paradise in Recife, Brazil. ABWE missionaries in Peru, Japan, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and the Philippines also have camping facilities. They have come to value the great benefits to the youth in getting away from family and peer pressure to learn the things of the Lord.

Campers in these countries don't arrive via turnpike or super highways. An overcrowded river launch plies its way slowly along the Amazon River with excited teenagers. In Iquitos, Peru, it's a rough country road that is taken by a truckload of young folk. A rickety bus is pressed into service for Bon Fim. Nevertheless, this is a very memorable week to these fine young people with such great potential.

At first, campers come for fun and recreation, and that is provided. But more importantly, some hear the gospel for the first time during camping sessions. An evening campfire with a message on Christian service has also been the setting for many a young national to commit his life for God's work. In a few years, ABWE's Bible schools are the recipients of camp alumni who are asking for training so they can minister God's Word to their own brethren.

ABWE missionaries would surely appreciate your prayers as they carry out this important phase of their ministry.

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### REFERENCES:

Dr. James T. Jeremiah, Cedarville, Ohio  
Dr. Paul VanGorder, Atlanta, Ga.  
Dr. Vaughn Sprunger, South Bend, Ind.  
Dr. Melvin V. Efaw, Huntington, W. Va.  
Dr. Frank C. Torrey, Boca Raton, Fla.  
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Write for your FREE copy of "The Trumpeter for Israel" our quarterly magazine devoted to the work of Jewish evangelism.

## A Word From Your Scioto Hills Reservation



As the year '78 draws to a close, we look back in retrospect and are thrilled at all the Lord has done for us! Truly He is a GREAT GOD and greatly to be praised! The '78 camping season brought 466 campers to Scioto Hills. This was a 25% increase over 1977. A total of 78 decisions for salvation, dedication, etc. were reported. We get even more excited as we look ahead in '79!

A great deal of work has been done at the Reservation. Cabins and recreation areas have been winterized. This allows us to have Winter Retreats for the first time in our history! We are looking forward with keen anticipation to the "groundbreaking" for our new "Steed/McKeever Memorial Chapel". This should take place in early spring of this year. Pray much for this undertaking.

Our Board of Trustees has been recently re-organized. The present Board now consists of the following: Rev. James Ellick, Chairman - Rev. George Hattenfield, Vice Chairman - Rev. Lynn Lahaie, Secretary - Mr. Donald Grolimund, Treasurer - Mr. Jack Brannon, Assistant Treasurer - Dr. Merlin Ager, Mr. Dennis Burns, Rev. Thomas Fillingger, Mr. Harry Hartzell, Mr. William Tobias and Rev. Bradley Quick.

The Board voted recently to hire Mr. Peter Gardner of Cedarville, Ohio to serve as Assistant Director for the Summer of '79.

Our Summer of '79 schedule of camping and speakers is as follows:

June 16 FAMILY DAY

June 18 - 23 JUNIOR - Mark Chandler  
Assoc. Pastor - Faith, Greenville

June 25 - 30 JUNIOR HI - David Demian  
Pastor-Grace Chapel, West Liberty

July 2 - 7 FAMILY CAMP - Dr. James T. Jeremiah - Chancellor, Cedarville College

July 9 - 14 SR. HI - W. Paul Jackson  
Pastor-Grace, Cedarville

July 16 - 21 JUNIOR HI - James D. Jeremiah,  
Pastor - Meadowbrook, Lima

July 23 - 28 JUNIOR - Tom Fillingger  
Pastor-Shawnee Hills, Jamestown

July 30-August 4  
JUNIOR - James Turner  
Pastor-Abbe Road, Elyria

Registration for the '79 camping season begins February 1st. Fees will remain the same as last year with a \$15.00 non-refundable deposit plus \$30.00 balance due upon arrival at the Reservation. Send all registrations directly to the Reservation.

We urge our pastors to begin NOW in encouraging their young people to attend an exciting week at the Reservation in 1979!! Also, pastors, please remember that our Executive Director, Gary Storm, is available to present the ministry of Scioto Hills to you and your congregation at your convenience. You may contact him by writing: Mr. Gary Storm, Ex. Dir., Scioto Hills Reservation, Route 3, Box 359A, Wheelersburg, Ohio - 45694 or phone: (614) 778-2273.

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## Are You A Biblical Giver?

Editor's Note: This excellent article was written by Dr. Robert G. Gromacki of Cedarville College. It first appeared in the November/December issue DAYBREAK - the official paper of Piedmont Baptist Bible College. We run it here with Dr. Gromacki's permission.



Dr. Gromacki

Professor of Bible and Greek, chairs the Biblical Education Department at Cedarville College where he has taught since 1960. He is the author of six books, numerous articles and a popular conference speaker.

Giving is the very essence of genuine Christianity. All believers are thankful that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). The old English word "charity" was often used to translate the Greek word for "love" (agape). To give one's time and money to others is to put love into action.

Just as there is a difference between godly sorrow and the sorrow of the world (2 Cor. 7:10), so there is a gulf between mere philanthropy and Biblical giving. The former stems from man to man whereas the latter should manifest the love of God through regenerate men to other men. The goals and motivations of the two types of giving are radically different.

Near the end of his third missionary journey, Paul asked the churches of Galatia, Macedonia, and Achaia to give to a relief collection for the poor Jewish saints in Jerusalem. When the apostle wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians, he was in the process of gathering the collection. The money from Macedonia and probably that from Galatia was in hand, but he had not yet received the Corinthian contribution. To encourage them to finish their project, Paul cited four principles of Biblical giving which could be seen in the example of the Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:1-5).

First, their giving manifested the grace of God (8:1). It demonstrated what the grace of God can do in the transformation of lives. The essence of grace is to give abundantly with no expectation of anything in return. Christ said: "And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what grace have ye? for sinners also do even the same" (Luke 6:33).

Most of the Macedonians, in their unsaved days, were very hostile toward Jews (Acts 16:20). However, when they were born again, they became one with the Jews in Christ. Their pagan antagonism disappeared and they demonstrated their love for the Jewish Christians in distant Jerusalem with a remarkable gift. Only the grace of God could remove that racial hatred and replace it with a generous spirit.

Second, their giving was liberal (8:2). Christ used this word "liberality" when He spoke about attitudes toward heavenly and earthly treasures: "... if therefore thine eyes be single (same word), thy whole body shall be full of light" (Matt. 6:22). Liberal giving is done out of simplicity or a single minded purpose to glorify God.

It is uncalculating, free from ulterior motives.

Four aspects of their liberal giving are described. First, they gave "in a great trial of affliction." They themselves were in need, but they gave. God tested them in the first of persecution, and they came through as refined steel.

Second, their gift demonstrated the "abundance of their joy." Their rejoicing over what God had given them in Christ over-shadowed their loss of material possessions (1 Thess. 1:6). They were like the Hebrew Christians who "took joyfully the spoiling of (their) goods, knowing in (themselves) that (they) have in heaven a better and an enduring substance" (Heb. 10:34).

Third, they gave out of "deep poverty." They were not just poor; they were extremely poor. And yet, they gave like the poor widow who cast her two mites into the temple treasury. She "of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:44). The Macedonians and the widow both needed their gift money to pay for the daily necessities of life, but they loved God so much that they gave it to Him.

Fourth, their gift manifested their spiritual "riches." They were like the church of Smyrna which was poor, yet rich (Rev. 2:9). They personified Solomon's wisdom: "There is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches" (Prov. 13:7).

Third, their giving was voluntary (8:3-4). It was free, self-imposed. They were "willing of themselves" to share. They did it out of their own initiative. All believers can and should give something, but they went beyond the call of duty and Paul's expectations of them.

In fact, they forced the apostle to accept their gift. They begged Paul to let them participate in the special collection and then, they had to beg him to take the money ("praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift"). They responded to the need like the Israelites did when a call went out for materials to construct the tabernacle. So much came in that Moses had to stop them from giving any more (Ex. 36:5-7).

Fourth, their giving was to the Lord (8:5). The quantity of the gift impressed the apostle, but the spiritual quality of the givers went beyond his hopes. God does not want the gift without the giver. He does not accept man's wealth as a substitute for man's will.

Their outward giving of their money manifested the inward giving of "themselves to the Lord." They had done this "first". Vertical giving should precede horizontal giving. They followed Paul's admonition: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Once a believer has yielded himself completely, he is then in a position to offer the sacrifice of money (Phil. 4:18).

May God raise up a generation of believers in affluent America who will give according to Biblical principles. Will you be one?



by Tom Wright, Jr.

**SWEETER THAN HONEY** (By Paul Tassell - Regular Baptist Press, 1300 North Meacham Road, Box 95500, Schaumburg Illinois-60195-1978; 142 pages - \$2.95)

"Having forsaken God, Biblical Christian morality, and old-fashioned work ethics, thousands of Americans are living on 'highs' that can only lead to Hell... they prefer gusto to grace, thrills to truth, and gratification to God... what thrills the soul will fill the life, what rejoices the heart will rule the conduct of an individual..."

You have just read a few excerpts from a new book by Paul Tassell. This is a hard-hitting and desperately needed book for our day. This book ought to be in the

## Most Informative Prophecy Conference



Dr. Gerald V. Smelser

A PROPHECY CONFERENCE was held in November at the Calvary Baptist Church, Painesville, Ohio (Rev. Raymond Luke, Pastor) which proved to be most informative, challenging and one of great blessing.

Guest teacher for this conference was Dr. Gerald V. Smelser, Field Representative of the Cleveland Hebrew Mission. The theme was "The Middle-East In Perspective" which proved a timely subject.

Brother Smelser's subjects included - "Israel's Tragedy and Triumph" - "Demonstration of Jewish Passover" - "The Glory Of The God Of Israel" - "The Valley Of Dry Bones" - "The Land Of Blood And Blossom" - and "The Prince Of Peace".

We greatly appreciated the clear presentation of all scriptural truths but especially those that had to do with Israel in this present age.

That all may know God's plan for their lives through His Word

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hands of every church member in the country! The primary subject in the book is the Psalm 19 view of the Bible. The book actually is a three-part treatment that not only gives you in Part I - "The Bible and our position, our perception, our pleasure, and our practice" - to name a few, but also in Part II - "Something New" (for the NOW generation) that deals with problems of morality, drugs, and attitudes. Then, in Part III, "Something Forever" which deals with making the right choices, the future, and a lesson on "Promises From The Passover."

The author grapples with some of the shocking trends of our hour - even among Christians - and comes to a Biblical conclusion as to the reasons. The conclusion is stated as follows: "People who refuse to give themselves in submission to God's Word will always be suckers for high-sounding religious systems that are of no eternal value."

After reading the first part on the Bible and its authority over us, we have to conclude that only a return to the Bible as our standard, guide, and joy provides us any hope!

Believing that a book speaks best for itself, I quote the following: "In today's religious world, friendship is valued more highly than faith... the commendation of men is valued more highly than the commands of God." Dr. Tassell has something that can help pastors and believers in a "shifting sands" environment!

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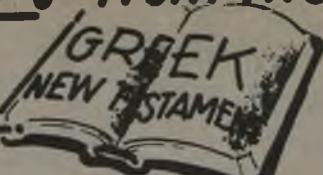


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# GLIMPSES of TRUTH from the

by  
DR. GEORGE L. LAWLOR



## A Word About Weakness: 2 Cor. 12:9

The passage in 2 Cor. 12:7-10 is a remarkable one. For it is the personal testimony of Paul, under inspiration, of himself as the man to whom God granted an actual visit to Paradise, and then allowed a messenger of Satan to afflict him. Paul twice states that the thorn in the flesh was given to him "in order that he might not be lifting himself up unduly." He does not say when this thorn in the flesh was first inflicted upon him, and he gives no indication as to the nature of "Satan's messenger." But the thorn is the messenger of Satan; they are not two different things. "The messenger of Satan" stands in apposition to "a thorn in the flesh." That is: the expression "messenger of Satan" elucidates, helps to explain the "thorn in the flesh." In order that the apostle not become unduly elated and boastful by the extraordinary manifestations of divine revelation and favor granted to him, God providentially gave the thorn in Paul's flesh which was, in fact, a "messenger of Satan."

A great deal of speculation has been indulged as to the nature of the "thorn," and why it is described as "the messenger of Satan." We need to be warned against such speculation with regard to this and other like matters. Many diagnoses of the "thorn" have been asserted by preachers and theologians, and a variety of opinions put forth as to the "messenger of Satan." The writers and commentators dilate on the subject to the point of folly and quackery. Even, as Lenski remarks, "a few good medical men have examined the passage. Still fewer have ventured an opinion, and an opinion, is about all that could be offered" (Interpretation of 2 Cor., p. 1342). Still, opinions there are, and most are greatly far-fetched, such as: blasphemous thoughts produced by Satan, tortures of conscience, sexual temptations, a pathological case, personal attacks upon Paul by an enemy, epilepsy, malaria, headaches, Malta fever, hysteria or melancholy, a nervous affliction, ear trouble, eye disease, leprosy, hardships, disfigurement, etc. Great care and caution should be exercised in the consideration of any of these views as the specific affliction suffered by Paul. Let us note the key words and draw a reasonable conclusion from the original text.

### 1. The thorn in the flesh, (skolops tē sarki), v. 7.

The word "thorn" (skolops) designates a "sharp stake, sharply-pointed piece of wood," generally referred to in the classics simply as "stake." The term "flesh" (sarki) refers literally to the body, the physical substance of which the body is composed. There is no reason to figurize either term, i.e. "thorn" = Satan's fiery spiritual darts, and "flesh" = the corrupt nature of man. A sharp stake driven into the flesh causes agonizing pain, and there is no doubt that Paul refers here to his literal flesh. Thus, the reference is to some extremely painful bodily affliction suffered by the apostle, and of such uncommon synonym describes the thorn as "a messenger of Satan in order that he might beat me." The thorn drives deeply into the flesh with sharp, severe pain, and remains there - the Lord intending that it remain. The messenger of Satan is there to keep beating Paul (present tense of the subjunctive verb, kolophidze), and making him suffer by means of the thorn. This indicates that the thorn in the flesh was thus a permanent affliction under which the apostle continued to suffer - at times - almost unbearable pain. Is this possible? Does this really happen in the experience of God's own people? Yes! Here is the supreme example of it! This is something that does take place periodically. The Scripture idea frequently occurs, i.e. that bodily afflictions are at times produced

by the direct agency of Satan, so that they may be regarded as his messengers, sent by him, Paul recognized this. We must also be aware of it. Every now and then there comes a frightful attack by this messenger of Satan, this terrible beating with the pain of the stake imbedded in the flesh. Each attack is almost inhuman, as Lenski remarks, "like an implacable demon who with hellish glee tries to knock a defenseless mortal senseless." Compare the analogy in Job 2:7. Twice Paul repeats the Lord's purpose in allowing this affliction: that despite the apostle's having been caught up to heaven to receive divine revelation, he must be sternly admonished that he still dwelt in a frail, sinful, mortal body. While none of us have ever been allowed a visit to the glory where God is, to receive special revelation - nevertheless new endowments and blessing, graces and privileges which come to us down here must be constantly placed on trial, and a check placed against abuse of increased gifts.

### 2. The prayer for removal of the thorn, v. 8....

The apostle besought the Lord three times to make the thorn to "stand away from" him (aposte, from aphistemi). He made three attempts in prayer to urge the Lord to remove the thorn from him. Three times means that Paul received the answer from the Lord the third and last time he prayed for the thorn's removal. The thorn would not be removed. It is not proper to cite these three petitions of Paul as an illustration of prayer going unanswered, or request being denied. The prayer was answered, and there was no denial by God in any sense. Paul's petition was made from a heart that was ready to submit to whatever the will of the Lord might be for him. The apostle does not need to record these details, for they are very evident, as vv. 9-10 testify. It is of interest to recall at this point the fact that our blessed Lord Himself prayed three times to the Father in the garden, and the third time He said: "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me except I drink it, thy will be done" (Matt. 26:42-44). Paul's prayer was much like his Lord's.

We learn from Paul's prayer that we should pray with importunity. There is no mistaking Paul's earnestness. He prayed repeatedly until he received a response. He prayed three times and at the third petition the answer came. A literal answer was refused, but a spiritual answer was granted. Many Christians ask very little in prayer and therefore receive little from God. Others pray and expect God to cater to their whims, and so receive nothing. Other believers pray earnestly, but forget that God answers in accord with His own character as well as to supply the need of the suppliant. His answer is like Himself - supernatural, miraculous, infinite eternal, awe-inspiring. We must look for such answers. Often the answer is there before us, but we do not recognize it because it is supernatural in character and unlike what we expected. Still others pray and then turn away from the place of prayer. Paul persisted and received the answer.

We also learn from Paul's prayer that we should pray with definiteness. The apostle prayed for "this thing" - the thorn, Satan's messenger. Many Christians pray for everything in general and therefore never receive anything in particular. Paul prayed also that the thorn "might depart from me", i.e. that God would remove it, withdraw it from him, and put it away. But this was not God's will for the apostle, so the thorn remained and God allowed it to persist as the messenger of Satan. He answered Paul's prayer by giving him something better. It is a good thing that it does not rest with us to send away or to retain. We would often send away what is best for us and retain the bad and injurious.

We learn finally from Paul's prayer that we should pray with expectancy. God does not answer definite prayer by raising up a blank wall before us. He does not turn away our prayer, earnestly offered, by giving no answer at all. He does not refuse to hear and meet the real need in the petition. He hears, He moves, He understands the prayer, and He dictates the answer. When we pray, we should expect God to answer, but in the way most essential for our good.

### 3. The prayer for the thorn's removal was answered, v. 9....

"And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for thy strength is made perfect in weakness. . ."

The verb "said" is the perfect tense (eireke) and connects the past with the present. It states the fact of God's answer to Paul's prayer, and shows its continuing, consoling power. Once heard, the answer ever continued in Paul's ears. It never left him. And the answer not only was ever sounding in Paul's ears, but it sounds in those of all God's suffering people from that day to this: "sufficient for thee is My grace!" The word "sufficient" is the verb form (arkei), "it is sufficient for thee" placed emphatically forward in the sentence. God's grace is always "enough" for our need, for all our life, all our work, all our trials, all our suffering, and especially for our "thorn in the flesh." We have no promise from God that He will always alter our circumstances, but we do have His assurance that His grace is enough for our life. God arranges an economy of life for us, which may involve suffering, pain,

## Graham Road Presents Cantata

"DOWN FROM HIS GLORY", a Christmas Cantata by John W. Peterson, was presented by the Adult Choir of the Graham Road Baptist Church on December 17, 1978.

Under the direction of Stephen E. Smith, the 35 member choir was accompanied by Mrs. Etta Caldwell at the piano and Mrs. Cheryl Jenkins at the organ. Soloists were: James W. Huber, Bass; Mrs. Joan Mikesell and Mrs. Nancy Santee, sopranos and Stephen E. Smith, Baritone. Narration by Harold Scott. Excerpts from this musical was presented at the Summit Mall Shopping Center on December 15.

John Peterson's cantatas are well known and highly accepted. The closing chorus sums up the message, "And joyful praise to God we sing! It was His love that wrote the Christmas story."

difficulty - but for our greatest good. We must not look upon these things as evil casualties, but undertake to see how God is working them for our good, and turn to His plentiful supply of grace.

For our strength is made perfect in weakness. Or, more literally: "For the power is brought to its completeness in weakness." The verb is teleitai, the same verb which occurs in John 19:28, 30, where our Lord cried "tetelestai!" is brought to maturity - but that the divine power "is finished," is brought to the completion of its work, in weakness. The Lord's power is always perfect, mature, complete, and thus cannot be made perfect because it is always so. But His power works in us, accomplishes things in us. Christ says to us: "It is enough that I give you My grace. It is the enabling which you need, and it is all-sufficient. For My power manifests itself in your weakness. The weaker you are, the more conspicuous and effective is the power in sustaining and delivering you." When the power has brought us to that point where we in ourselves are utter weakness, it has finished its work. It has shaped us into the exact tool it desires for itself. Just as long as we (sinners saved by grace) still insist that we have some power ourselves, we are unfit vessels for the Lord's use. He still has work to do in us before He can work and move properly, freely, through us. But when He has worked us down to the desired point of self-weakness and lowliness - then He can use us for His glory and praise. Most gladly therefore, let us glory in our weakness at the Lord's hand, and even though He brings His purpose about in us by means of Satan's messenger - a thorn.

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## Special Blessing Through Campaign

According to Rev. Jack Wiltheiss, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Valley City, Ohio, the Lord richly blessed through the MEDINA COUNTY CAMPAIGN. Brother Wiltheiss served as chairman for the campaign which included eight churches. Souls were reached for Christ and many other vital decisions were made as well.

Guest evangelist for the campaign was Dr. Curtis Hutson of Atlanta, Georgia. Our brother, through the years, has been greatly used of the Lord. He is the Associate Editor of - "The Sword of the Lord."

Soloist for the campaign was Brother Ray Hart, who at one time was a part of the Metropolitan Opera. His singing talent has been given to the Lord and is used exclusively in HIS service.

On Thursday evening of the campaign, Evangelist Paul Wren of Chaggaanoo, Tenn. ministered. Brother Wren is a weight lifter holding a number of outstanding records. He gave an exhibition of his skills.

On Friday evening, folk gathered to hear the thrilling testimony of Marolyn Ford. She is the author of "These Blind Eyes Now See." For a period of twelve years she was blind but now has clear vision.

Other pastors and churches having a part in the week-long campaign are: Richard Powers, Grace Baptist of Brunswick; Max Deffenbaugh, First Baptist of Medina; William Cruver, Peoples Baptist of Brunswick; James Edmonson, Hinckley Ridge Baptist of Hinckley; Donald Matheny, First Baptist of Brunswick; Larry Leonard, Chippewa Lake Baptist of Chippewa Lake and John Powell, Reimer Road Baptist of Wadsworth.

A large choir sang each night of the meeting. This was headed by the Ron Merrill family from Savannah. Mrs. Donna Merrill is the composer of several musical numbers, some of which were sung by the choir.

Following the campaign, the pastors of the cooperating churches met to discuss the benefits of the meetings and also to consider the possibility of any future campaigns of this sort.

## VanHaven Bible Institute Organized

A group of business and professional men in Blanchester, Ohio, have organized a Bible institute, and have elected Dr. H. O. VanGilder as president and Mr. Rod Lane, principal of the Blanchester high school, to serve as vice president.

Of the faculty of ten, three are ministers and the others are involved in public education. Mrs. VanGilder, who has her masters degree in administration, is teaching philosophy and psychology in the institute.

The school is offering on a college level a three year program of instruction in Bible and Theology, together with training in Christian service. In addition to instruction in doctrine and theology, the curriculum includes Bible and analysis, survey of Old Testament and New, history courses tracing the history of Israel and of the church, three courses in teaching methods, expository preaching, intro-

## Xenia Area Holds Christmas Party

The pastors of the Xenia Area Fellowship of our Regular Baptist Churches met at Pastor and Mrs. William Wheeler's home on Tuesday evening, December 5th for their annual Christmas Party. It was very well attended.

The Wheeler Home was all decked out for Christmas. Favorite desserts were brought by each pastor's wife. They were delicious - all of them!

After a time set apart from a game or two, Christmas carols were sung. It was an evening of fun and fellowship!

duction to psychology, Greek, English, art and music.

The school (VanHaven Bible Institute) is non-denominational non-segregated, and open to all who are academically qualified, regardless of race or color.

.... Dr. H. O. VanGilder, Pres.  
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Tuesday: "Missions - Worldwide - Is the Church On Target?"

Wednesday: "A Strategy for the Growth of Fundamental Churches"

Thursday: "Essentials for Effective Evangelism in the '80s"

Friday: "The Case for Inerrancy"

... SPECIAL SESSIONS

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"Looking at Missionary Strategies for the '80s"

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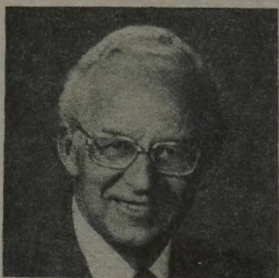
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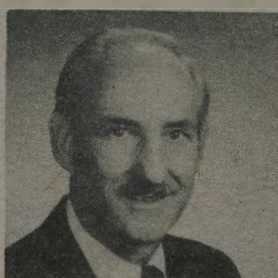
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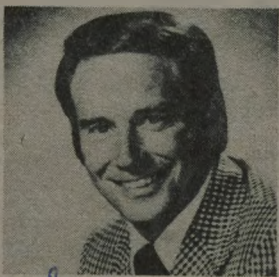
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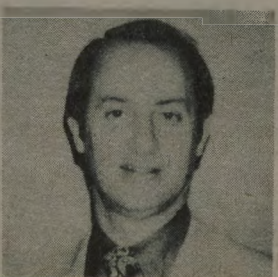
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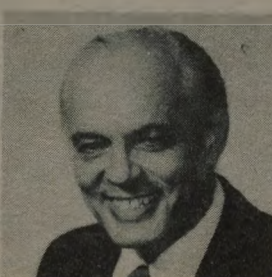
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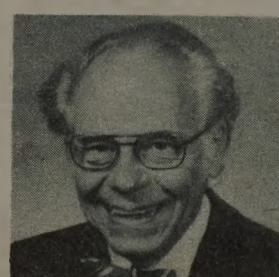
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## Grand Rapids 20th Annual Seminary Bible Conference

The dates for the 20th Annual Seminary Bible Conference are February 19-23, 1979. All meetings will be held at the Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary, 1001 East Beltline, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Down through the years, the Lord has used this annual conference to bless the hearts of thousands. This year will be no different! Guest speakers include: Wendell Kempton, Anthony Fortosis, Paul Dixon, Warren Faber, David Allen, David Jeremiah, Quentin Kenoyer, Leon Rowland, Victor Matthews, N.A. Wiens, and Warren Wiersbe. J. Stratton Shufelt will be the Conference songleader.

Besides the regular meetings, there will be Daily Clinic Sessions. Five very important topics will be explored. These are: "Christian Day Schools - Where Are They Going?", "Missions Worldwide - Is the Church on Target?" - "A Strategy for the Growth of Fundamental Churches" - "Essentials for Effective Evangelism in the '80s" - and - "The Case for Inerrancy."

Also, MINI COURSES will be presented throughout the week. Too, there will be special sessions which include a Ladies Guild Hour, a Women's Seminary, and a Seminary Student's Special.

It really sounds like an exciting conference. Pastors are urged to attend. Bring some of your people with you!

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